United Nations A/54/PV.42

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session

Official Records

42nd plenary meeting
Friday, 29 October 1999, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Gurirab ..... (Namibia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 125 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The President: I should like to inform members that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

The President: This information will be reflected in an addendum to document A/54/464.

Agenda item 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: This morning the General Assembly will proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1999.

The 18 outgoing members are Cape Verde, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, El Salvador, France, the Gambia, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Zambia.

As of 1 January 2000, the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, the Comoros, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela and Viet Nam. The names of these 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States which will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2000, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, three from Asian States, one from Eastern European States, four from Latin American and Caribbean States, and five from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be

99-86285 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to this procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairmen of the regional groups that for the five vacant seats from among the African States, the five endorsed candidates are Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and the Sudan.

For the three vacant seats from among the Asian States, there are six candidates, namely, Bahrain, Fiji, Japan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

For the one vacant seat from among the Eastern European States, there are three candidates, namely, Croatia, Hungary and Lithuania.

For the four vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there are six candidates. They are Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Suriname and Uruguay.

For the five vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, the five endorsed candidates are Austria, France, Germany, Greece and Portugal.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

I should like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the time of the conduct of the election. As you are all aware, once the voting begins, all campaigning should cease on the main floor of the General Assembly Hall. This means in particular that until the election is completed, no more campaign material can be distributed inside the Hall. This includes the recess time when the results are being tallied.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper which do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Ioseliani (Georgia), Mr. Sengmanothong (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Ms. Arias (Peru), Mr. Nyman (Sweden) and Mr. Ben Youssef (Tunisia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.25 p.m.

Agenda item 125 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The President: Before we proceed further, I should like to inform members that Seychelles has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

The President: This information will be reflected in an addendum to document A/54/464 to be issued.

Agenda item 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States

Number of ballot papers:	174
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	174
Abstentions:	4
Number of members voting:	70
Required two-thirds majority:	114
Number of votes obtained:	
Cameroon	168
Angola	165
Benin	165
Burkina Faso	165
Sudan	161
Burundi	1
Tunisia	1
Uganda	1

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	174
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	174
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	174
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Japan	122
Bahrain	106
Fiji	72
Thailand	69
Kazakhstan	63
Sri Lanka	54

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	174
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	173
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	171
Required two-thirds majority:	114
Number of votes obtained:	
Croatia	73
Lithuania	64
Hungary	34

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	174
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	174
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	173
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Costa Rica	130
Cuba	119
Mexico	110
Uruguay	106
Suriname	103
Ecuador	80
El Salvador	6

Group E — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	174
Number of invalid ballots:	4
Number of valid ballots:	170
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting;	164
Required two-thirds majority:	110
Number of votes obtained:	
France	161
Greece	157
Portugal	155
Germany	153
Austria	152
Malta	3

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Angola, Austria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Portugal and Sudan were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2000.

The President: Five seats remain to be filled: two seats from the among the Asian States, one seat from among the Eastern European States and two seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot.

In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, this second round of balloting shall be restricted to the four States from among the Asian States that were not elected but obtained the largest number votes in the previous ballot, namely, Bahrain, Fiji, Kazakhstan and Thailand; the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Croatia and Lithuania; and the four States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Ecuador, Mexico, Suriname and Uruguay.

Ballot papers marked "B", "C" and "D" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "B", for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Bahrain, Fiji, Kazakhstan or Thailand, as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

Ballot papers marked "C", for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Croatia or Lithuania, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

Ballot papers marked "D", for the Latin America and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Ecuador, Mexico, Suriname or Uruguay, as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Ioseliani (Georgia), Mr. Sengmanothong (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Ms. Arias (Peru), Mr. Nyman (Sweden) and Mr. Ben Youssef (Tunisia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.55 p.m. and resumed at 1.35 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	174
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Bahrain	125
Fiji	88
Thailand	61
Kazakhstan	44

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	174
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	172
Required two-thirds majority:	115
Number of votes obtained:	
Croatia	90
Lithuania	82

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	174
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Mexico	110
Suriname	94
Uruguay	91
Ecuador	36

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Bahrain was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2000.

The President: There remain four seats to be filled: one from among the Asian States, one from among the Eastern European States and two from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, we should continue with the series of restricted ballots. However, in view of the late hour, I propose that we postpone further balloting until this 3.30 p.m. this afternoon. May I take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.